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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Colombia

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 2 September 1948

SUBJECT Contacts between the USSR and the ROC

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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- Doc. 1. During the first half of 1943, prior to the severance of Colombian-USSR relations the Soviet Legation in Bogota ostensibly ignored the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC) and did not participate in any of its activities. However, evidence of its interest in the local Party is seen in its authorization through Luis Carlos Perez, a prominent lawyer and former President of the Instituto de Intercambio Colombo-Sovietico to deliver furniture owned by the Soviet Legation to Filiberto Barrero, a member of the PCC Executive Committee. The furniture is presently located in the PCC headquarters at Carrera 7, No. 13-38, second floor, in Bogota.
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2. Since the departure of the Soviet Legation from Bogota, the PCC has had no direct contact with the USSR. To make up for this deficiency, PCC leaders recommended at a meeting that the Party cooperate more closely with the Communist Party of Venezuela. In this connection Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, mentioned the presence of PCC member Alvaro Sandoval in Caracas. Sandoval's role is that of direct representative of the PCC to the Soviet diplomats in Caracas.
3. Vieira White stated that Caracas is the center of Communist activity in Latin America and the principal point of contact with the USSR. He attributed this to Romulo Betancourt's friendship with Soviet diplomats accredited to Venezuela, in contrast to the treatment they received in Colombia and other South American countries. He concluded that Caracas would remain an important Communist center so long as the policies instigated by Betancourt's Revolutionary Junta were followed.

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